



Our wonderful Stevenage charity shop has been in the spotlight this month. After a few weeks of refurbishment works (and some blood, sweat and tears), we are in love with its new look.

There has been that exciting feeling of hope and new beginnings in the air and our shop staff have been busy providing preloved uniform and other essentials to our school-age customers as they begin a new school term.

Do pop in to the shop see what we have on offer - it changes daily. You might even be able to find yourself something to join in with Second-Hand September.

~ Adrienne, Chief Executive.

Our Charity Shop is Grandly Re-Open

At the end of August, we celebrated the Grand Re-Opening of our charity shop in Chells Way, Stevenage.

We were joined by Deputy Mayor Councillor Jim Brown, and Deputy Mayoress Penney Schendel who cut our purple ribbon and officially declared the shop open.

The Grand Re-Opening took place following expansion and refurbishment works in our main shop. Our aim was to create a bigger and brighter, more family orientated space which would also house our children's department. When you next pop in, you'll see our new flooring, lighting, signage and displays throughout.



The Living Room's External Relations Director, Mark Wiseman said; "It was a pleasure to welcome Deputy Mayor Brown and Deputy Mayoress Schendel to cut the ribbon and formally open our newly refurbished charity shop.

"All profits raised by the charity shop goes to The Living Room. Every item of clothing, crockery or toy donated and sold, directly funds our treatment centres in Stevenage, Watford and St Albans, where our highly trained counsellors work to provide free, time-unlimited, life-saving addiction therapy.

"So, we'd like to thank everyone who has supported us, and who continue to support us, as we support those on their journey of addiction recovery."

Life at The Living Room

"I would have never been able to do this without The Living Room (my safe space) the counsellors and everyone in it. I would have just been another statistic and today I'm not, I can be me and give back and help others on the same path. Today I'm living not just existing - I'm a survivor all thanks to the support. I feel so lucky to have been given this opportunity and to be able to work through my traumas, whilst learning how to live a healthy life - so thank you who ever funds this magical place." - An ex-client



Charity Golf Day

We received a wonderful £752 donation from the kind participants and sponsors who took part in the Crown Golf, Charity Golf Day on Friday 1st September.

The competition raised over £1500, which was shared between The Living Room and Garden House Hospice.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in organising the event, especially Richard, Neil, and Gavin, The Crown in Aston and all the amazing sponsors.



Second-Hand September



CEO Adrienne Arthurs wears second-hand



Counsellors Michelle, Rochelle, Mike and Julie all wearing second-hand

We are taking part in Oxfam's Second-Hand September campaign to highlight how the fabulous second-hand items donated and sold in our charity shop directly funds addiction treatment, providing people with a second chance at life.

So we're saying 'Life, Not Landfill', as Second-Hand really does mean a Second-Chance.

This month our staff will be coming to work dressed in clothes they have bought second-hand. This is an opportunity for you to get to know our staff on social media platforms and showcase the important work they do.

The Living Room's CEO, Adrienne Arthurs said; "Since 2006, The Living Room Charity Shop has been space for the local community to buy, browse, volunteer, and give back through donations of pre-loved items. Every purchase makes a big difference, as it directly funds addiction treatment in Hertfordshire.

"So, when you pay a visit to our Stevenage charity shop, you will see how we turn the preloved into re-loved, saving clothes and other items from landfill and giving them a second chance.

"Likewise, if you visit our treatment centres, you will see how our counsellors give people living with addiction a second chance at life.

"We passionately believe that second chances and a life in recovery is available to everyone. Addiction treatment benefits future generations, the economy, and communities as it provides people with tools to live life free of dependency to drugs, alcohol, or addictive behaviours for comfort. We believe that everyone has potential, and a life worth living."

"Many of our staff have been shopping in charity shops and wearing second-hand for years, it really is a case of 'long live fashion' it makes us feel good to be giving something back. Therefore, Second-Hand September is an opportunity for you to get to know us better, whilst we show you what we do to help those on their journey of recovery from addiction."



As a local charity we rely on donations and grants to continue to deliver our services. We are very thankful to everyone who donates either as a single or **regular giver**. Your generous support helps us to break the cycle of addiction in Hertfordshire. We want to give a special shout out to the people and organisations who have donated to us over the past month:

The Living Room Sponsored Walk - £164.00

The Crown Golf, Charity Golf Day - £752.50

Councillor- Mark Watkins - £650.00

Councillor- Morris Bright - £500.00